



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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May 3, 2000

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Anthony A. Gallegos, Senior Reclamation Specialist *aaJ*

RE: Site Inspection, Duchesne County Road Department, Duchesne County Asphalt Mine, M/047/028, Uintah County, Utah

Date of Inspection: April 13, 2000
Time of Inspection: 1005 - 1250
Conditions: Overcast, cool
Participants: Doug Nielson, Duchesne County Road Dept.; Tony Gallegos, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection: To discuss the last Division large mine notice review comments with respect to the response now being prepared by Duchesne County

The inspection began with a brief meeting at the Duchesne County office. Doug Nielson described the response Duchesne County was working on. He did not believe they could meet the Division's 30-day deadline as described in the last letter because he had some questions which required a site visit to resolve. A major change in their response will be their decision not to expand to the west as previously proposed. The overburden to the west of the active mine is too thick to economically mine the asphalt. After this discussion we left for the mine site.

Access into the mine site is restricted by a locked gate on the main road. Duchesne County, Bobby Fausett, the USFS, and a private landowner have access through the gate by having their own lock on the chain. We first visited the main pit area. Photographs of the pit looking toward the south include the waste piles to the south and the new road which switch backs up the hill to the proposed expansion area to the west. The roads into the pit showed signs of recent access during a time when the ground was wet judging from the tire ruts. According to Doug Nielson, the County moved out of the pit in April 1999, and since that time they have only been removing material from the stockpile. The County also removed their crusher from the site in April 1999. Any recent mining activity in the pit was probably performed by Bobby Fausett. At this time, Bobby Fausett has an active small mine site located to the south of this main pit.

After viewing the pit area we drove up along the road to the northern most exploration hole up on top of the mesa. A photograph of this hole shows the truck to the east. Visible in this photo is a grubbed area along the western property line. Beyond this property line to the west and also to the north of this project area is US Forest Service land. Doug explained that they had drilled nine holes to an average depth of 100 feet. The bottom diameter of the hole is two inches.

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We next drove to the cleared area directly west and above the current pit. From here we first visited the drill hole #2 site. This drill hole has not been plugged and the opening was covered with a rock. The diameter of the hole at the surface is approximately six inches. Photographs were taken of this drill pad area and general vicinity of drill hole #2. A second road connects this upper pad area with the other road.

We then proceeded back down the access road we had driven up. During the construction of this road they encountered a noticeable clay layer just below the topsoil layer. This clay was evident in photos of the road area. Doug explained that the county had put in the upper roads, grubbed the property boundaries and drilled the nine holes between December 1999 and January 2000. Additional photos were taken looking north and south along the grubbed boundary.

I explained that if the County was not going to expand into this area they would need to reclaim the new disturbances including the grubbed boundary line. This boundary line would still be evident years after reclamation, because of the difference in vegetation size and species. Reclamation of the new disturbances would require some regrading, spreading topsoil and slash, and seeding the areas. A key factor in reclamation success is to leave the surface rough, not golf course smooth. The access roads would best be reclaimed by using a track hoe in the steeper sections.

In conclusion, Duchesne County will need to update the mining and reclamation plan to reflect current and future disturbances, and post the bond before the Division can offer final approval of the large mine notice. Duchesne County will submit their response during the later half of the week of April 17-21, 2000. Missing the Division's deadline by a few days did not seem like a significant issue in this case, provided we are still making progress on finalizing the notice. I agreed to discuss their delay in responding with Wayne Hedberg, the Minerals Program supervisor and notify Doug if there were any problems. Before leaving the site, several photographs were taken of Fausett's small mine operation located south of the Duchesne County operations.

jb
cc: Doug Nielson, Duchesne County Road Dept
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NEW ROAD CUT UP TO
PROPOSED WEST EXPANSION



MAIN PIT AREA



DRILL PAD AREA WEST & ABOVE MAIN PIT

M/047/028 D. SNE COUNTY ASPHA.
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GRUBBED AREA & DRILL PADS IN PROPOSED WEST EXPANSION



DRILL PIT NEXT TO DRILL HOLE SITE

M/047/028 D. ESSE COUNTY ASPHAL

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USFS BOUNDARY SIGN
↓



BRUSH CLEARED ALONG PROPERTY LINE
& ACCESS ROAD (NOTE CLAY) - LOOKING NORTH



BRUSH CLEARED ALONG PROPERTY LINE
& ACCESS ROAD - LOOKING SOUTH



WEST ←

LOOKING NORTH

→ EAST